agriculture to global climate change. Emphasis has also been given during XI Plan period to strengthen the existing institutional network with additional budget to cope up to the challenges posed by climate change.

Deaths of marine species due to pollution and climatic changes

1259. SHRIMATI SYEDA ANWARA TAIMUR:
SHRI VIJAY JAWAHARLAL DARDA:
Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that rising pollution, climate change, etc. are spelling a death knell to hundreds of marine species;

(b) if so, what long-term measures are being thought of to prevent such a situation in our vast coastal areas, which apart from providing livelihood to thousands of our people also disturb the ecological balance; and

(c) what was the quantity of sea-food during 2007 and how much foreign exchange we earned from export of fresh fish and its products?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN): (a) Mass mortality of fish occur in coastal waters occasionally due to harmful algal bloom caused mainly by natural oceanographic factors. Presently, there is no evidence of mortality of fish in the coastal waters due to climate change.

(b) The Pollution Control Boards of the respective coastal States monitor activities which are likely to cause pollution and enforce compliance to norms laid down for prevention of waste water discharge and other pollutants in sea water. The Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI), Cochin has taken up studies to assess the impact of climate change on marine fisheries.

(c) During 2006-07, India has exported 6.12 lakh tones of marine fish and fishery products valued at US$ 1781.30 million.

Potential in National Bamboo Mission

1260. SHRI B.J. PANDA:
MS. MABEL REBELLO:
Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the status of National Bamboo Mission and how far we have succeeded in harnessing the potential of this environmental-friendly plant;

(b) whether this plant provides income, food and housing to millions of people and there is imperative need to develop this sector;

(c) if so, the action plan of Government to ensure standardization and training in bamboo processing with a view to promote bamboo-related activities; and

(d) the details of its status in Orissa and Jharkhand and what is the action plan of Government to exploit its potential in these regions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) The Department of Agriculture and Cooperation has launched a Centrally Sponsored Scheme on